



For immediate release

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Eighteen community groups receive ‘Small and Simple’ funding awards totaling \$212,496 through the Neighborhood Matching Fund program
Amount is matched by \$274,203 from community groups

SEATTLE – Small and Simple Projects Fund awards totaling \$212,496 will be made to 18 community groups through the city of Seattle’s Neighborhoods Matching Fund with another \$274,203 matched by the organizations. The funding awards will be announced at a special awards ceremony tonight starting at 6 p.m. at the Ravenna Eckstein Community Center, 6535 Ravenna Ave. N.E.

Recipients include community groups from all over the city, ranging in support for projects such as park improvements, a mural painting project at South Lake High School, a youth development conference and more.

Awarded four times a year, the Small and Simple Projects Fund is provided by the city’s Department of Neighborhoods and supports groups committed to building a better community by matching public funds with volunteer labor, cash, donated materials and professional services. The recent round of projects range from \$1,200 for identification markers and a brochure about wildlife at Carkeek Park to \$15,000 for a documentary and historical exhibits about the Duwamish River and Duwamish Tribe.

“Although it’s called the ‘small and simple’ fund, these projects take a tremendous amount of volunteer time to organize, and I thank our community groups for their commitment,” said Mayor Nickels.

Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee, added, “It’s always impressive to see the variety of projects that are proposed by community members and the enthusiasm and creativity that drive them. It’s particularly gratifying because the projects are community driven, with neighbors coming together and deciding what is important to them.”

The Small and Simple Projects Fund, which is one of the components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, provides awards up to \$15,000 to fund community

projects. Other programs include: the Large Projects Fund, the Tree Fund, and the Neighborhood Outreach and Development Fund.

Since the program was created 21 years ago, the Neighborhood Matching Funds have awarded over \$42 million, with a community match of over \$64 million in volunteer labor, cash, donated materials and professional services. Projects also involved approximately 65,000 volunteers who donated over 400,000 work hours.

“Over the years, the program has supported thousands of worthwhile projects, but it’s not just about the finished product,” said Stella Chao, Department of Neighborhood director. “It’s also about building a sense of community. One project leads to another and involves more committed community members – this is the part that is very powerful.”

For more information, visit the Department of Neighborhoods website at: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/>. Or call: 206-684-0464.

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